

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
MARCH 22, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, March 22, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in the Board Room on the Mississippi Delta Community College Moorhead, Mississippi campus.

Members present: Mrs. Sara Fox, Mr. Donald Green, Mrs. Joanna Heidel, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Mr. Henry Hudspeth, Mr. George Walker, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Members absent: Mr. David Marsh, Mr. Jimmy Murphy, and Mr. Lawrence Warren.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Mrs. Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Bill Smith – IHL, and Dr. Larry Bailey, Mr. Joe Ray, Dr. Linda Steele, Mr. Perry Jenkins, Dr. Magdalene Abraham, Mr. Robert Warnock and Mr. Edward Rice – Mississippi Delta Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves. Mr. Walker thanked Dr. Larry Bailey and Mississippi Delta Community College for hosting the meeting.

PRELIMINARIES

Mr. Donald Green gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of the February 21-22, 2002 Meetings

Upon a motion by Mr. Henry Hudspeth and a second by Ms. Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 21-22, 2002, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Sara Fox asked that a purchasing approval for CCN Upgrades included in item four (4) under the Finance Committee Report be deleted. Upon a motion by Mrs. Joanna Heidel and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

MACJC Report

Dr. Larry Bailey welcomed the SBCJC to Mississippi Delta Community College. Mississippi Delta is celebrating its 75th Anniversary and the Board viewed a videotape presentation, "Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence" developed and produced by Mississippi Delta staff members. Dr. Bailey gave the Board a brief history of the college and highlighted the new programs put in place since he took office as president.

Dr. Bailey updated the Board on items addressed at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges held on February 22, 2002.

The Association received a report from Ms. Karen Bell with the American Heart Association regarding defibrillator units on college campuses. She will work with individual colleges to help secure funding for units through grants or partnerships with private entities.

The Association received a proposal from a group of Hattiesburg businessmen to develop a Mississippi Bowl Game. The bowl game would be funded through private partners and would be held at the University of Southern Mississippi with no cost to any college. The Association voted to support the bowl game effort.

SBCJC staff member, Mr. Ray Smith, gave a brief report concerning a common administrative software package for the colleges. Several colleges are currently running CDMS software, and there is a question regarding continued support of the software since the company has been sold to another entity.

The Association received a report on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) enrollment for the Spring 2002 semester. The plans for an upcoming MSVCC SACS accreditation visit were also discussed.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave the MACJC Legislative Committee Report, and adequate funding of community and junior college programs continues to be a top priority. The Association is committed to working to obtain adequate workforce training program funding.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray reported that the SBCJC office had received a letter from Mississippi State Auditor, Mr. Phil Bryant stating that his office had completed a limited internal control and compliance review of the SBCJC for the year ended June 30, 2001, (Exhibit A). The letter showed "no findings" as a result of review procedures and compliance tests. Dr. Ray complimented Mrs. Deborah Gilbert and the Finance Division staff for their work.

Dr. Ray also reported that Mr. Jimmy Robertson had notified the Board by letter the results of the Supreme Court hearing regarding the IHL-USM Gulf Park Campus lawsuit. As part of his responsibility, the letter offers to the plaintiffs an opportunity to request a re-hearing of the issue.

Dr. Evelyn Webb extended the Board a personal invitation to attend the 8th Annual Mississippi Quality Awards Program that will be held on April 19, 2002, at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi. This year ten (10) winners have been named and will be recognized at the MQA Luncheon. Dr. Webb will follow-up with members individually on or before March 29, 2002.

Dr. Ray announced a joint sponsored project between the MACJC and the SBCJC, to provide a report on the economic benefits provided by Mississippi community and junior colleges. CCbenefits will conduct the study. The SBCJC contribution to the project is \$5,000.

At the Board's request last meeting, a letter was prepared and sent to Representative Billy McCoy, expressing concern of the bond funding for community colleges.

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Dr. Ray also stated that a letter was prepared and sent to State Workforce Development Council member, Mr. Joe Jones, expressing appreciation for his help with the editorial board meetings held across the state to highlight workforce funding budget needs.

Dr. Ray shared a thank you note to the Board from, Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Dr. Ray also shared a letter from Dr. Ted Alexander expressing appreciation for food, flowers, cards, calls and prayers received during his wife Barbara's illness.

Dr. Ray also thanked Dr. Larry Bailey and Mississippi Delta Community College's staff for all the courtesies shown the Board during the visit. He complimented Mississippi Delta for their effort to work toward being progressive and flexible in meeting students' needs.

REPORTS/ACTION

Workforce Report

Mr. George Walker reported that he had been asked to speak to the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus concerning workforce development in the new economy.

Mr. Walker gave a brief report on the editorial board meetings across the state to present budgetary needs for workforce training. He distributed copies of an article by Mr. Wyatt Emmerich entitled "The grass is always greener on the other side" for the Board's review (Exhibit B). Mr. Walker stated that he had received very positive responses from articles that were generated from the editorial board meetings.

Mr. Walker stated that representatives from RTS, Inc., and MDC were present at the last State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) meeting. The SWDC broke into small groups to work with the consultants who are developing a strategic plan for utilizing available workforce funding in the state.

Executive Director Search

Mr. Walker reported on a meeting of the Executive Director Search Committee held last evening. The position vacancy was advertised in the Clarion Ledger. The committee recommended that additional advertisements be placed in the Tupelo, Hattiesburg, Starkville, and Oxford newspapers. Mrs. Yonge suggested that the Sun Herald be added to the list. Upon a motion by Mr. Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to run the position vacancy advertisements in the five newspapers across the state.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to extend the application deadline from April 1, 2002, to April 15, 2002.

The Search Committee will meet on Friday afternoon, April 26, 2002, on the Gulf Coast and on May 9, 2002, in Jackson.

Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave the Board an update on Legislation that directly and indirectly

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affects the colleges. There are two weeks left in the session and appropriations decisions will be made shortly.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that copies of a Resolution commending the Phi Theta Kappa Mississippi Academic All-State Team members had been distributed to each honoree. Each MACJC college president also received a copy for his/her records.

Dr. Stonecypher stated that Mr. Donald Green's and Mr. David Marsh's nomination for appointment to the SBCJC would be scheduled to be addressed in Senate confirmation hearings in early April.

EDNET Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on an EDNET meeting held on March 18, 2002. She stated that not much in regards to the contract with WorldCom had changed since the last meeting. Mr. Martin Mangold, EdNet President, Ms. Mary Ann Franklin and Mr. Frank Spencer will meet with WorldCom representatives on March 22, 2002, to receive their reaction to EDNET's most recent settlement request. There has not been any communications between EDNET and WorldCom since the proposal was presented six weeks ago. The Board anticipated that WorldCom will make a request for more time.

EDNET has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Education to apply for a TOPS grant. TOPS promotes the innovative use of new digital infrastructure to deliver educational information and training to the public. The receipt of this grant will allow EDNET to increase its programming.

EDNET staff has held meetings with the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) and the Mississippi Emergency Management Association (MEMA) staff to discuss how EDNET's broadcast service can be used to provide training to health professionals located at county health departments and hospitals statewide. By using EDNET's services, MDH or MEMA will be able to provide training and deliver information related to a biological threat or any other emergency that threatens public health and safety.

The royalty check that WorldCom remitted for February was for \$6,833.50. This amount is below the minimum mandatory amount of \$7,500.00 that is protected by the contract. Mr. Mangold has requested that WorldCom remit the balance amount of \$656.60.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a new, private partner were mailed this week to Sprint, DixieNet, BellSouth, WorldCom, Clearwire Communications, ATT Wireless and Neucetrix. As EDNET seeks a new private partner, it is also exploring other avenues of financial support and stability.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Disbursements for Fund 2298 for April, May, and June 2002, the respective amounts of \$7,046,304.00, \$6,429,998.00, and \$6,429,999.00 (Exhibit C).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Contingency Fund and Education Enhancement Fund

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Disbursements for March 2002, from funds 3295, 4080, and 4110, in the total amount of \$2,802,636.00 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve Z- 1 Revision #8 for Electronic Advisory Council shift of \$65,000 from subsidies to contractual services, and Z-1 Revision #9 to Rural Health Corps shift of \$35,000 from subsidies to contractual services (Exhibit E).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a maintenance agreement for the Subgrant and E-Audit Systems in an amount up to \$4,350.00 if needed.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of equipment and infrastructure upgrades in the amount of \$65,000.00 to accommodate hosting of the e-audit and subgrant system applications (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$32,759.00 to the Walden Institute for training up to 46 individuals at \$697.00 each, offered through the Certified On-Line Instructor Program.

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of February 28, 2002, (Exhibit G).

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert distributed a report that provided funding formula figures for FY 2003 based upon the Senate Version of S. B. 3140 and Fall 2001 headcount enrollment figures (Exhibit H).

Enrollment Report

Dr. Larry Day and Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a preliminary report on Mississippi Public Community and Junior College credit enrollment for Fall 2001-2002 (Exhibit I). Dr. Day discussed the highlights of the report with the Board.

Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation Appointment

Upon recommendation by Dr. Olon Ray, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the re-appointment of Dr. Vivian Presley to another term on the Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation Board.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Mr. Donald Green, and a second by Mrs. Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

Mr. George Walker for attending SWDC meetings on March 13, and April 10, a legislative meeting on March 25, and the Mississippi Quality Awards Luncheon on April 19, 2002, in Jackson, Mississippi.

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Mr. Henry Hudspeth for attending the PTK Awards Luncheon on March 19, 2002, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Jimmy Murphy for attending an EDNET Board meeting on March 18, 2002.

OTHER BUSINESS


Dr. Ray reminded the Board that the annual election of officers takes place during the April meeting.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, and a second by Mr. Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to hold the April 25-26 meeting at 9:00 a.m. on the Jefferson Davis Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray, Executive Director